

## Dragon Con - Skeptic Track 2017

Day	Time	Panel Title	Description	Presenter/Panelists	Room
Friday	10:00 AM	Skeptrack Kick Off 2017	Get to know several of this years skeptic guests and find out more about this thing we call 'skepticism'.	Margaret Downey, Curt Anderson, Leighann Lord, Nick Eftimades, Steven Novella, Julien Musolino	Hilton 204 - 207
Friday	11:30 AM	The ABC's of Critical Thinking	In today's world of false news and alternative facts, we hear more about the need to use "Critical Thinking". Something that most of us are not born with, it is a skill set that needs to be developed. Learn the basics of Critical Thinking and how we are teaching the world to use it.	Mark Gura, Gail Miller	Hilton 204 - 207
Friday	1:00 PM	Women In Skepticism, Athiesm and Critical Thinking	Historically, society and culture has marginalized issues that are important to women. It's time we stand up and do something about it. This panel will discuss hot topics that impact women. Please join the conversation and speak with several prominent women from all walks of life.	Cara Santa Maria, Kelli Cooke, Candace Gorham, Zerine Firoze, Gail Miller, Donna Swafford, Christine Shellska, and Shelley Segal	Hilton 204 - 207
Friday	2:30 PM	Weird Mysteries: Applying Science to the Paranormal	Ghosts, Bigfoot, and psychic powers exist or they do not; if they exist, there should be scientific proof. How good is the scientific evidence for these claims? How does a science-based investigator approach these mysteries and separate fact from fiction?	Ben Radford	Hilton 204 - 207

Friday	4:00 PM	Artificial Intelligence, Will It Save or Destroy Us	What is the status of current AI, what is the potential of narrow vs general AI, and what are the risks vs benefits.	Steven Novella, Evan Bernstien, Bob Novella, Jay Novella, Nicholas Eftimades	Hilton 204 - 207
Friday	5:30 PM	Religion and Science: Could Bill O'Reilly Have Been Right?	Once O'Reilly remarked that "It's easier to believe in a benevolent God, the baby Jesus, then it is to believe in some idea of global warming, it's just easier". It expressed important insights about the relationship between religion and science. What are the lessons we can draw from it?	Julien Musolino	Hilton 204 - 207
Friday	7:00 PM	Imagine A Day Without Water	Without water society would fall into chaos & civilization would collapse. In our developed society do we understand the value of water, the challenges that face us in just maintaining our supply? As infrastructure rapidly ages and we focus on other priorities, will we face a future without water?	Kelly Comstock, Dave Williams, Donnell Duncan, Kathy Nguyen, Kim Holland, Steve Simpson	Hilton 204 - 207
Friday	8:30 PM	Creativity In Skepticism	Several Skeptical Minded Artists, Authors, and others who make a living creating for the masses talk about how they approach their respective crafts.	Leighann Lord, Scott Sigler, Michael Stackpole, Celesta Ward, Shelly Segal	Hilton 204 - 207
Friday	10:00 PM	Stand-Up Comedy with Leighann Lord - Smart, Geeky and a Little Bit Cheeky	If you like your stand-up comedy hilariously intuitive, intelligent, and geeky, then you'll love Leighann Lord. With the best GOM Jabbar in the business her topics are both personal and poignant.	Leighann Lord	Hilton 204 - 207
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Saturday	10:00 AM	*ROOM IS DARK* - Go see Skeptics in the parade!	Go out and watch the Skeptics March in the Parade!		Out on the Town

Saturday	11:30 AM	Scientific and Skeptical Outreach	Join the skeptical parade group for a cool-down and discussion on how to encourage the public, and others, to take critical thinking seriously.	Margaret Downey, Benjamin Radford	Hilton 204 - 207
Saturday	1:00 PM	Fake News, Misinformation, and Disinformation Online: A Premier for Resistance	Fake news as a tool to affect outcomes is not new. Every generation uses the technology of the day to influence opponents. Today its social media, the Internet, and the speed which falsehoods and fabrications can propagate. Are there potential "vaccines" to immunize people against the problem?	Nick Eftimades	Hilton 204 - 207
Saturday	2:30 PM	Iconic Moments in Sci-Fi - What Makes them Iconic?	A review and discussion about the most iconic moments in science fiction and discuss the psychological and cultural influences that made them iconic.	Steven Novella, Jay Novella	Hilton 204 - 207
Saturday	4:00 PM	How to Effectively Deal with Faith-Based Claims	When we single out for criticism any given faith-based belief or localized god or gods and their miracles and/or revelations we legitimize them to a certain degree. Loftus argues this should stop. We shouldn't neglect dealing with localized versions of faith and/or religion, but that when doing so we should place them all on an equal playing field. Loftus will show us what this means.	John Loftus	Hilton 204 - 207

Saturday	5:30 PM	Richard Dawkins Award Presentation: Fighting God	Atheist Alliance of America & Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science announce David Silverman as the 2017 recipient of the Richard Dawkins Award. Silverman expounds on the methods & efficacy of Firebrand Atheism.	David Silverman, CW Brown, Mark Gura	Hilton 204 - 207
Saturday	7:00 PM	*ROOM IS DARK* - Set Up For Awards Ceremony	Head all the way over to the Hyatt for the big party in the Hyatt, Regency V Ballroom!		Hyatt Regency V
Saturday	8:30 PM	Atheist Alliance of America Celebration	Everyone welcome, please join us atheists, heathens and freethinkers alike for a secular party. The AAoA is celebrating it's 25th anniversary and the efforts of the Atheist community. We value knowledge, understanding, empathy, passion and a desire for change and we champion unity.	Mark Gura, Curt Anderson, Julien Musolino, Leighann Lord, Shelly Segal	Hyatt Regency V
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Sunday	10:00 AM	Debunking the Top 20 Myths about Being Transgender with Science	Myths ranging from religious conflation of sex and gender, non-scientific mental health ideas to reasons why transgender children should not take puberty blockers or transition.	Dr. Dana Bevin	Hilton 204 - 207
Sunday	11:30 AM	The Future of Skepticism	Over recent years the community of Skeptics has seen many twists and turns. What does the future hold?	Benjamin Radford, Steven Novella, Cara Santa Maria, Brian Brushwood, Tim Farley	Hilton 204 - 207

Sunday	1:00 PM	Do You Trust That Electronic Voting Machine?	People talk about hacking or manipulation of votes due to the use of electronic voting machines all the time. How possible is it to manipulate elections which use electronic voting machines? Find out how the voters are processed, how votes are counted, and the security and vulnerability of such.	Derek Ellington	Hilton 204 - 207
Sunday	2:30 PM	Skeptics Guide to Revolution and Meditation	Revolutionist atheists, skeptics, humanists, and freethinkers are utilizing meditation and changing Buddhism, the 4th largest religion in the world. Skeptical?	Mark Gura	Hilton 204 - 207
Sunday	4:00 PM	Skeptics Guide to the Universe - LIVE!	The award-winning Skeptics' Guide to the Universe podcast live stage show celebrating science, skepticism, and everything geeky.	Steven Novella, Jay Novella, Robert Novella, Evan Bernstien, Cara Santa Maria	Hilton 204 - 207
Sunday	5:30 PM	Are We Robots or Not? Does Free Will Matter?	In an age where evolutionary science and technology reign are we just robots performing tasks according to our particular inputs? If so, should we hold on to the language of free will? Is it important at all? Panelists include moderator, author and board members of the Atheist Alliance of America John Loftus, Mark W. Gura and Derek Colanduno, and Asher Haig, PhD in Artificial Intelligence and Psychoanalysis, CEO and Lead Engineer at Strong.AI.	John Loftus, Asher Haig, Mark Gura, Timothy Edward Dawson, Derek Colanduno	Hilton 204 - 207

Sunday	7:00 PM	Magic v Mayhem	Stunts & mental challenges w/magic and mind reading to create a mind-blowing experience. Brian Brushwood (Scam School and NatGeo's "Hacking the System") & Curt Anderson (20-year nationwide stage illusionist) join forces live on stage to present a thrill-ride mashup of their best magic and stunts.	Curt Anderson, Brian Brushwood	Hilton Grand East
Sunday	8:30 PM	An Evening With Shelly Segal	Come enjoy some amazing secular themed music and personal stories about self discovery.	Shelly Segal	Hilton 204 - 207
Sunday	10:00 PM	Geekapalooza!	The Geekapalooza Comedy Tour features faculty and students from Georgia Tech out to prove that nerds can be funny and not just funny-looking.	Pete Ludovice	Hilton 204 - 207
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Monday	10:00 AM	Promoting Skepticism with Street Epistemology	Learn how to help others re-evaluate their deeply-held beliefs without backfiring and causing a person to drive deeper into certainty. Make conversations on controversial topics shift from aggressive debate to productive dialogues that actually make a difference.	Anthony Magnabosco	Hilton 204 - 207
Monday	11:30 AM	Debunking Legal Myths about Polyamorous Families	Erroneously equated with polygynous or cheating families, polyamorous families often labor under mistaken ideas about their family structure. Empirical data to demonstrates significant differences between polyamorous and polygynous families in how they treat women and children.	Dr. Elizabeth Sheff	Hilton 204 - 207

Monday	1:00 PM	The 'Evolution' Of Creationism	Flat Earth believers & geocentric ideas persist many years after On the Origin of Species, creationism continues to enjoy broad support. How did the creationist movement come into existence in the wake of Darwin\'s theory, how has it adapted in response to the pressures of science and law?	Loren Collins	Hilton 204 - 207
Monday	2:30 PM	Wrap-Up And Feedback	Come and join us for a discussion about the past weekend.	Dr. Eli Sheff, Brian Brushwood, Evan Bernstein, Bob Novella, Jay Novella, Julien Musolino	Hilton 204 - 207